

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BBAK, BF

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON THE AMBASSADOR INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL FOUNDATION

REF: NASSAU'S 293

1. REGRET DELAY IN RESPONDING TO EMBASSY'S QUERY. PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF NASSAU GUARDIAN ADVERTISEMENT OF FEB. 7 DESCRIBING THE RELATIONSHIP OF HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG, AMBASSADOR COLLEGE AND THE AMBASSADOR INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL FOUNDATION, DEPT. HAD LEARNED FOLLOWING FROM CONTACTS WITH CALIF. SOURCES: AMBASSADOR COLLEGE WAS FOUNDED SOME DOZEN YEARS AGO IN PASADENA BY HERBERT ARMSTRONG IN VERY MODEST CIRCUMSTANCES AND WITH ENROLLMENT OF 8 STUDENTS. SCHOOL IS AFFILIATED WITH WORLD-WIDE CHURCH OF GOD, AN EVANGELICAL PROTESTANT GROUP WITH TIES IN RURAL TEXAS. PRINCIPALLY FROM PROCEEDS OF A WELL KNOWN RADIO AND TV "MINISTRY" AMBASSADOR COLLEGE HAS DEVELOPED AN IMPRESSIVE PHYSICAL PLANT AND CAMPUS AND

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CURRENTLY HAS 800 STUDENTS ENROLLED. MOST STRIKING FEATURE

OF THE SCHOOL'S PHYSICAL PLANT IS ITS ACOUSTICALLY PERFECT AUDITORIUM WHICH HAS SERVED A NUMBER OF WELL KNOWN ARTISTS SUCH AS, MOST RECENTLY, VLADIMIR HOROWITZ. THE AMBASSADOR INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL FOUNDATION WHICH IS LOCATED WITHIN THE COLLEGE, APPARENTLY HAS PARTICIPATED,

IN SOME FASHION, IN OTHER CULTURAL ACTIVITIES SUCH AS DIGS IN ISRAEL. HOWEVER, ONLY RECENTLY HAS THE COLLEGE SOUGHT ACADEMIC ACCREDITATION FROM THE WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES. AMBASSADOR COLLEGE NOW HAS "PROBATIONARY" STATUS AND AT SUCH TIME AS THE SCHOOL MEETS CERTAIN CRITERIA, IT WILL BE ACCREDITED (I.E., DEMONSTRATED A SATISFACTORY MIXTURE OF LAYMEN AND CHURCH OFFICIALS ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES; CLEAR POLICY ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM PLUS CLEAR SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND SCHOOL IN ITS FINANCES).

2. ACTIVITIES OF THE FOUNDATION ABROAD ARE OF INTEREST TO THE DEPT. AND OTHER AGENCIES. IN OUR RESEARCHES DEPT. LEARNED THAT GSA THROUGH HEW PLANS TO GIVE AMBASSADOR COLLEGE THE FORMER VISTA ARROYO HOTEL IN PASADENA. HOTEL, WHICH IS ON 11 ACRE SITE HAS BEEN IN USG HANDS SINCE SECOND WORLD WAR AND IS BEING TURNED OVER TO THE SCHOOL UPON PROMISE OF RENOVATION. GSA TRANS-ACTION WILL BE DELAYED UNTIL ACTIVITIES OF MESSRS. ARMSTRONG, RADER ET ALL ARE ASSESSED. KISSINGER

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